

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
INTRAMURAL AIDS RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS for
GRADUATE STUDENTS and POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS
2014

A major mission of the NIH Intramural Research Program and the Office of AIDS Research (OAR), in the Office of the Director, is to train the next generation of researchers to continue the battle to halt the AIDS pandemic. To expand our efforts to build this workforce, the Office of AIDS Research, the Office of Intramural Research, and the Office of Intramural Training & Education will provide competitive fellowships to encourage the recruitment of new researchers from other scientific disciplines to the broad field of AIDS research. Postdoctoral trainees and graduate students in the NIH Intramural Research Program, both U.S. citizens and visiting fellows, whose work is directly applicable to HIV/AIDS research, will be eligible for support.

Please visit the FY 2014 Trans-NIH Plan for HIV-Related Research, accessible at <http://www.oar.nih.gov/strategicplan/fy2014/index.asp>, to learn more about the breadth and scope of NIH AIDS research, a unique and comprehensive multi-institute, multi-disciplinary, global research program. Perhaps no other disease so thoroughly transcends every area of clinical medicine and basic scientific investigation, crossing the boundaries of all of the NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs).

The NIH comprehensive portfolio of basic and clinical AIDS research includes: natural history and epidemiology; etiology and pathogenesis; therapeutics research; vaccines; microbicides; and behavioral and social science research to address HIV infection and its associated coinfections, opportunistic infections, malignancies, and other complications. This research focuses on the critical elements of the epidemic in the U.S., as well as on the global pandemic. Fellowship proposals addressing one or more of these scientific areas will be considered for support under this initiative.

Intramural AIDS Research Fellowship (IARF) awards will include full stipend support, health insurance, and limited tuition support (for graduate students). Initial funding of IARF awards will be for one year. Awards may be renewed for a second year pending availability of funds and evaluation of scientific and career development progress.

Successful candidates will demonstrate outstanding scientific potential through both a well thought out career development plan and an imaginative and thoughtful research plan. In evaluating the former, the mentoring history of the proposed mentor and the mentor's description of the ways in which he/she will contribute to the career and professional development of the applicant will be considered as will the applicant's discussion of proposed career development activities. During application review, *equal* emphasis is placed on all the following five criteria: the candidate (based on CV), the career development plan, the research proposal, the mentor, and the relationship to the Trans-NIH Plan for HIV-Related Research.

The research and career development plans must be prepared by the graduate student or postdoctoral fellow, but it is expected that the mentor will provide guidance and input. Applicants should submit a single electronic package containing the following documents to Dr. Phil Ryan and Dr. Shauna Clark at IARF@mail.nih.gov.

1. A cover page that provides the following information:
 - Project title
 - Applicant's name and title
 - Mentor's name and title
 - Sponsoring IC
 - Proposed start date
 - The signatures of the proposed mentor and the IC Scientific Director (or designee), indicating their approval of the submission and that the proposal was indeed written by the applicant
2. The applicant's *curriculum vitae* (3 page limit)
3. A research plan describing the research to be conducted during the applicant's year of IARF support. This research plan should be no longer than four pages, single-spaced. It must demonstrate clear relationship to the Trans-NIH Plan for HIV-Related Research.
4. A career development plan (two page, double-spaced) specifying the activities the applicant proposes to complete, including interactions with other research groups and scientists, attendance at meetings and presentations of ongoing research, and participation in career/professional development programs offered by the IC, the OITE, or other groups. The relationship of these activities to the long-range career plans of the applicant and the skills that the trainee will learn, both at and away from the bench, must be described.
5. A letter from the proposed mentor describing prior outstanding mentorship of postdocs and/or graduate students, the research environment and facilities available to the trainee, and the mentor's commitment to helping the applicant meet his/her career goals and encouraging the applicant to participate in appropriate IC- and OITE-sponsored training activities.

The application deadline for 2014 AIDS Research Fellowships is February 28, 2014 at 5:00 pm (EST). Decisions will be announced in early April. Applications will be accepted from current or new graduate students and postdoctoral fellows (only IRTAs, CRTAs, and Visiting Fellows may apply). There are no citizenship restrictions. Individuals from underrepresented populations are particularly encouraged to apply.

Renewal applications from 2013 fellows will be considered. A complete application, as outlined above, is required for renewal applications. Research plans for renewal applications should clearly summarize accomplishments made during 2013 and describe the research that will be conducted during the second year of IARF support.

Please address inquiries to Dr. Ryan (301-435-8014) and Dr. Clark (301-594-3753) at IARF@mail.nih.gov.